

Application No. 09/894,607
Amendment "A" dated February 25, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed November 30, 2004

REMARKS

The first Office Action, mailed November 30, 2004, considered and claims 1-34 in view of various combinations of Cohen, Puhl and Starkovich¹. The drawings were also objected to because reference numerals in the specification did not match reference numerals shown in the drawings. Appropriate changes have been made to the specification to correct this error.

Claims 1, 12 and 21 have also been amended and claim 15 has been cancelled, such that claims 1-14, 16-34 remain pending for reconsideration, of which claims 1, 12 and 21 are the independent claims at issue.

Claim 1 is generally directed to an embodiment for authenticating a client to provide access to network resources by using an innovative gateway to implement a method that includes defining an authentication filter at a gateway that is remotely interposed between a remote client and a content server, wherein the authentication filter includes a domain identifier and a username modifier for mapping authentication credentials received from the remote client according to pre-established criteria. The method also includes receiving authentication credentials at the gateway from the remote client that include both a domain and a user name corresponding to access permissions for accessing the resources at the content server through the domain. The received authentication credentials are then mapped based on the pre-established criteria, and by changing at least one of the domain and user name received from the remote client to different domain or user name. Then, the mapped authentication credentials are sent to the network, and such that the client's access to the content source is based on the mapped authentication credentials comprising the at least one of a changed user name and a changed domain.

Claim 21 is directed to a corresponding computer program product having computer-executable instructions for implementing the method described above.

¹ Claims 1-7, 12-18, 22-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Cohen. Claims 8, 19, 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen (U.S. Patent No. 6,178,511) as applied to claims 1, 12 and 24 and further in view of Puhl (U.S. Patent No. 6,223,291). Claims 9-12, 20-21 and 31-33 also appear to be rejected in view of Cohen and Starkovich (U.S. Patent No. 6,715,080). Although the prior art is not being challenged at this time, applicants reserve the right to challenge the purported prior art status of these references at any appropriate time, should it arise. The teachings of the secondary references are also not specifically addressed by this paper inasmuch as they were only used to reject dependent claims that should now be found allowable for at least the same reasons as asserted with regard to the independent claims. However, this silence regarding the secondary references should not be construed as Applicants acquiescing to the purported teachings of these references. In fact Applicants explicitly reserve the right to challenge these asserted teachings at any appropriate time in the future, should it arise.

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The last independent claim, claim 12, is directed to a similar method of claim 1, only using functional elements and language (e.g., "steps for") in place of the non-functional acts recited in claim 1. Claim 12 also corresponds more specifically to an embodiment in which the client is a mobile client and such that the gateway receives the client authentication credentials from a WAP server interposed between the gateway and the client.

In the last action it was asserted that Cohen anticipates many of the claims, including the independent claims. Applicants respectfully submit however, that Cohen fails to teach or disclose or even suggest the claimed invention, either singly or in combination with the other cited art of record. In particular, Cohen is generally directed to a Single Sign On (SSO) system that coordinates a single user login (ID & password) with many local and remote resources and such that the user does not have to remember all of the different passwords for each login application. Col. 2, ll. 24-29 and Col. 6, ll. 46-48.

Cohen does not, however, disclose that a gateway interposed between a remote client and a content server that includes an authentication filter configured to receive authentication credentials including both a domain and a user name from a remote client, wherein said filter is configured to change at least one of the domain and user name in order to map the authentication credentials to authentication credentials maintained on the network, as claimed. This is also particularly true when considering such changes can include changing the domain, which is provided by the client (claim 5), changing the suffix or prefix of the user name or any characters of the name (claims 6-7, 12), and that the gateway can receive the authentication credentials from a WAP.

Although the latest Office Action asserted that Cohen teaches the changing of a domain or user name, Applicants respectfully disagree. In particular, the portion of Cohen cited by the Examiner for this teaching (Col. 5, ll. 30-45) only clarifies the information contained by the PKM and that can be used with the CIM entries to login to other applications. In fact, Cohen does not change the domain or user name of a user at all, they only use the login information to access the PKM passwords and keys to provide them to the local logon coordinator, which is used with the target logon information received from the CIM to sign-on to the various target systems and applications. Col 6, ll. 38-42. Cohen does not actually change the domain or user name. Instead, Cohen merely describes a way to protect and utilize login information stored at a remote PKM and CIM, which can be retrieved and used by an automated GUI to automatically

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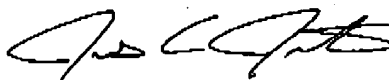
log into other applications without the user having to remember all of the passwords. Col. 2, ll. 36-51. In contrast, the present invention involves changing at least one of the user name and the domain provided by the user so that "if a client's credentials are compromised, attempts to authenticate with the credentials that do not involve the gateway will fail because the specified domain, user name, or both, do not exist on the network." Page 6, ll. 17-19.

Applicants also submit that the other cited art fails, in combination with Cohen, to teach or suggest such the methods described above and as recited in the pending claims. In fact the other art was not even cited for these propositions. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are now in condition for prompt allowance.

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 28 day of February 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



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